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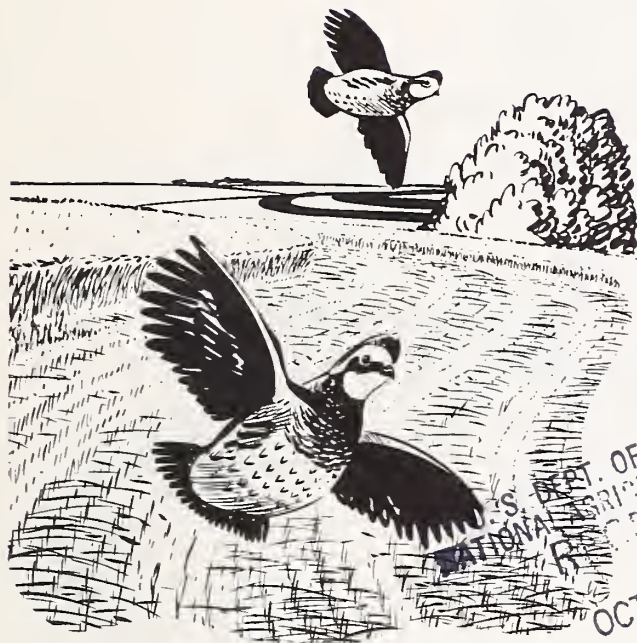
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conservation practices—

SIGNS OF GOOD

HUNTING AND FISHING



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**conservation practices—**

## **SIGNS OF GOOD HUNTING AND FISHING**

**By Lawrence V. Compton, Felix Summers (ret.), and Philip F. Allan (ret.),  
Soil Conservation Service.**

The wildlife you want to see and harvest is an agricultural crop. It is called "farm game" because it is grown on privately owned farms and ranches that produce other agricultural crops such as corn, cotton, livestock, and timber.

**This publication supersedes PA-400, Soil Conservation  
Tips for Sportsmen.  
Washington, D.C.**

**Issued June 1972**

Wildlife must have food and a place to live. Food, cover, and water for wildlife are byproducts of soil and water conservation practices. That is why stripcropping, hedges, windbreaks, field borders, ponds, and many other conservation practices are signs of good hunting and fishing.

Your hunting and fishing can be better if you recognize and know the effect of the conservation practices that are signs of good wildlife land.

Your welcome on farms and ranches will be greater if you remember the signs of good sportsmanship.

Here is a guide to both kinds of signs.

## CONSERVATION FARMING

Soil and water conservation practices give conservation farms distinctive patterns of trees, shrubs, grass, cultivated crops, and water areas that make good wildlife habitat.

Experienced hunters recognize the conservation practices that mark conservation farms and ranches.



## **STRIPCROPPING**

Alternate bands of crops and grass provide a lot of edges where wildlife food and cover are close together. They are favored habitats of quail and pheasants.

Most farmers and ranchers are friendly to considerate sportsmen. Get acquainted with them before hunting on their land.

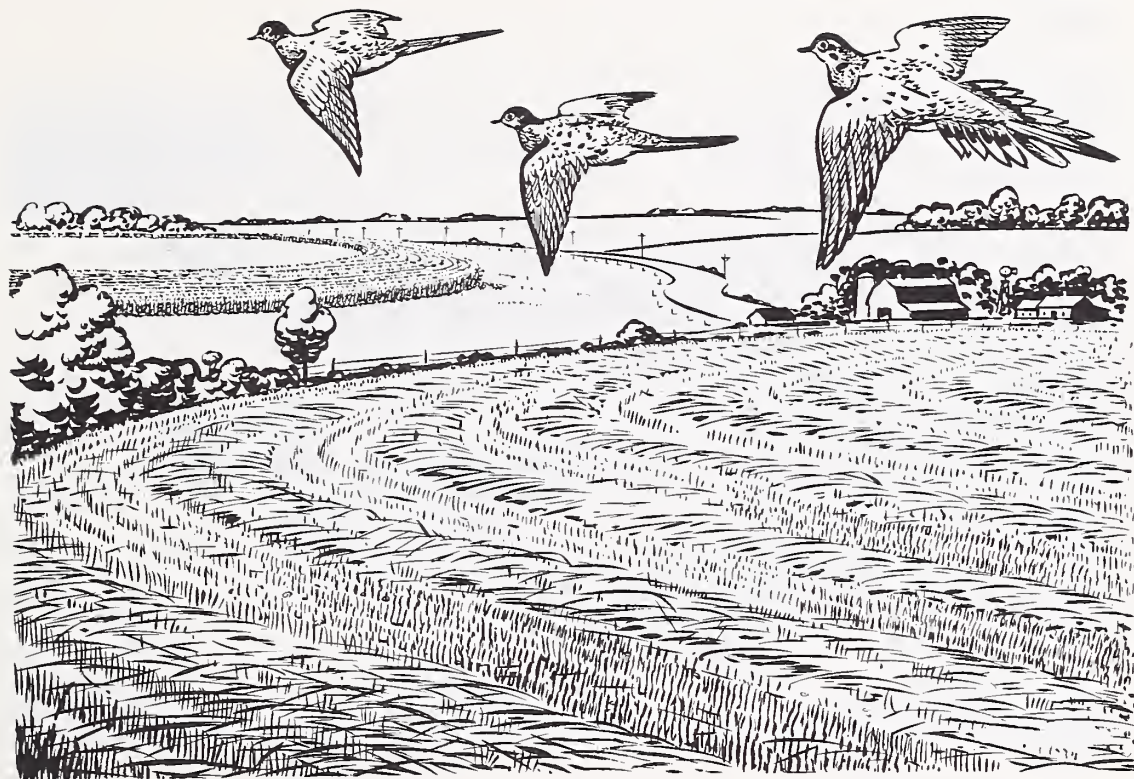




## **CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT**

Fields protected from erosion by stubble and other crop residues furnish waste grains and weed seeds, which are preferred food of doves, pheasants, geese, and quail.

Stop by the farmhouse and ask for permission to hunt and fish.



## **HEDGES**

Hedges and fence rows provide travel lanes, as well as food and cover, for quail, rabbits, squirrels, deer, and many other kinds of wildlife.

Courtesy and good sportsmanship open many posted acres to hunters.



## WINDBREAKS

Windbreaks prevent soil from blowing, protect buildings, and provide food and shelter for game. Tree squirrels and other woodland wildlife now occur in the prairies because of the trees and shrubs planted for windbreaks.

Leave fences and gates just as you find them.





## FIELD BORDERS

Borders of shrubs, grass, and other plants along the edges of fields and woodland provide homes for quail, rabbits, ruffed grouse, and pheasants.

Extinguish campfires and burning tobacco. Fire destroys wildlife as well as trees, grass, cultivated crops, and buildings.

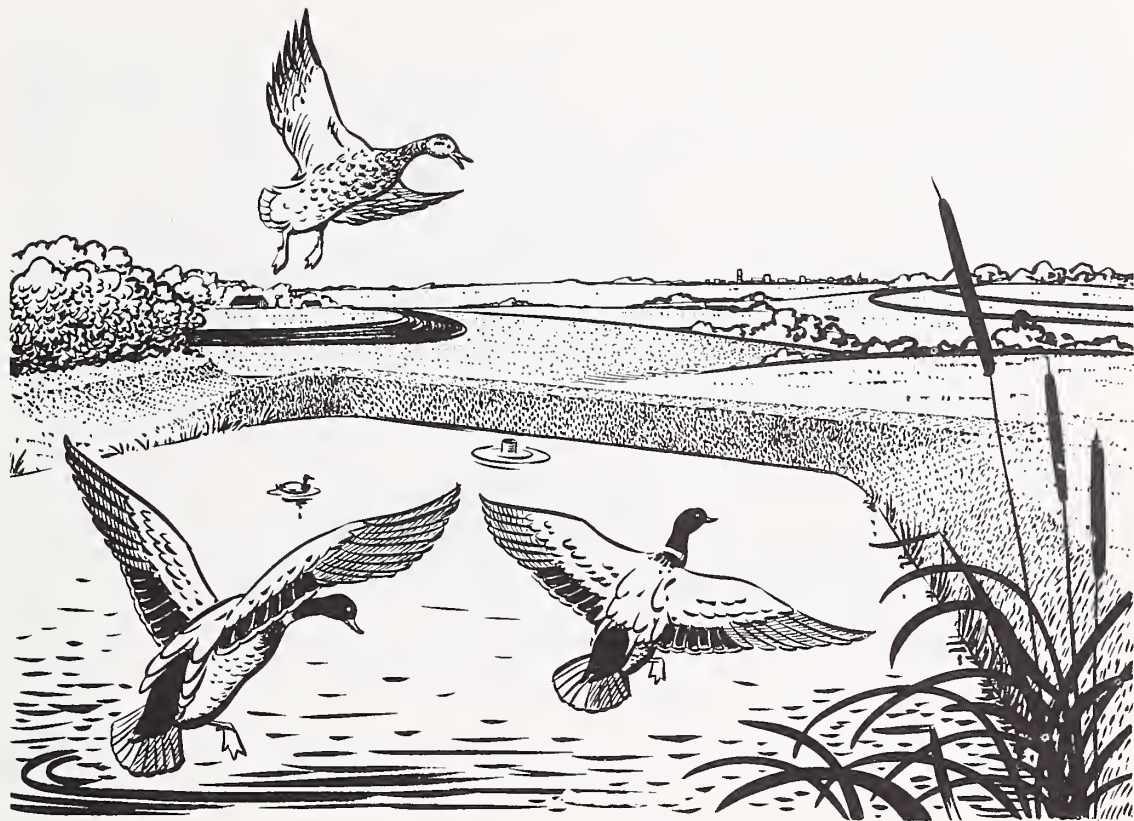




## FARM PONDS

Two million farm ponds built for soil and water conservation have improved duck production and duck hunting throughout the United States. Quail, doves, deer, antelope, and other wildlife also use these manmade water areas. There is good fishing in farm ponds, too.

Pick up your trash. Carry away your cans, papers, and garbage.



## ODD AREAS

Odd areas, such as abandoned roads, ditchbanks, and field corners, are retained by many farmers for wildlife. These protected areas are strips and islands of wildlife food and cover.

Be careful not to shoot toward buildings, livestock, or field workers. Be certain of your target and background before you shoot.



## PROTECTED WOODLAND

Woodland protected and improved by soil and water conservation practices supports deer, grouse, turkeys, squirrels, and other woodland wildlife.

Leave some game for another day, for another person, and for another crop.





## GRASSED WATERWAYS

Grassed waterways move water gently down slopes and help keep streams, ponds, and duck marshes free of sediment. Grassed waterways produce food for wildlife, and their edges are nesting places for quail and pheasants.

Obey fish and game regulations.

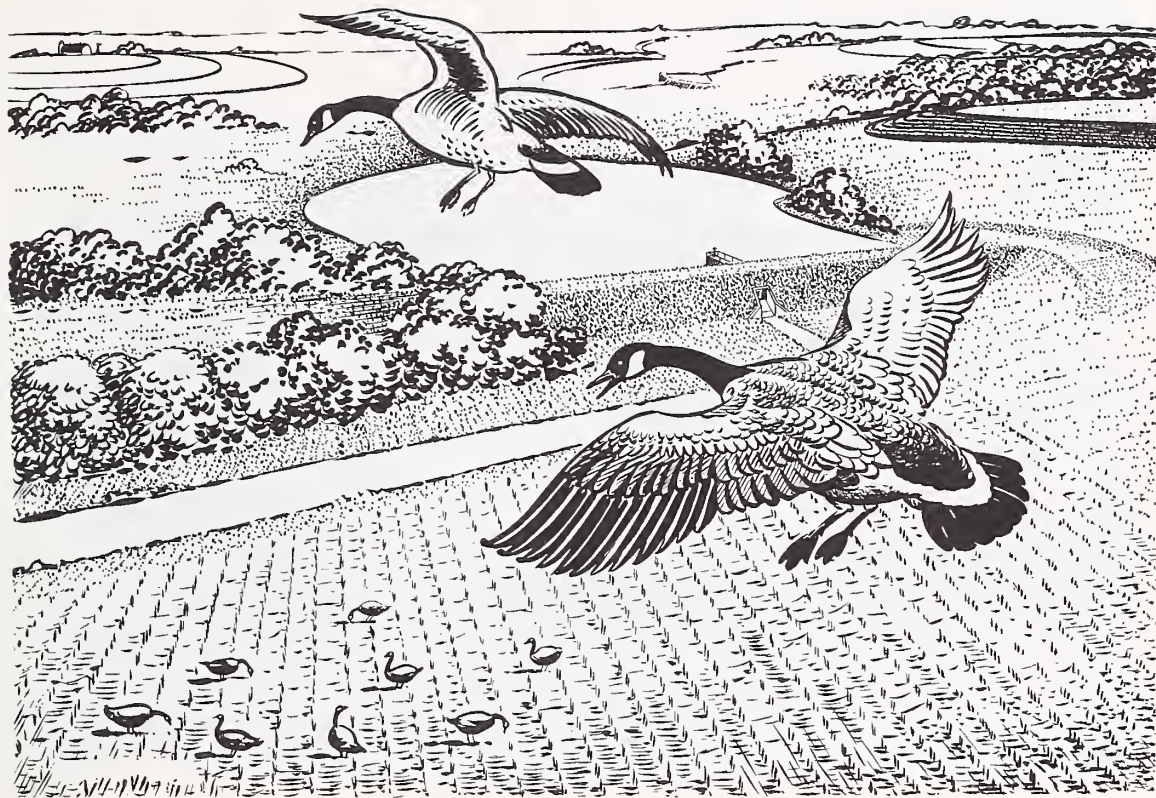




## IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS

Irrigation reservoirs and flood-prevention dams are stopover spots for migrating ducks and geese. They are used by other wildlife and provide good fishing, too.

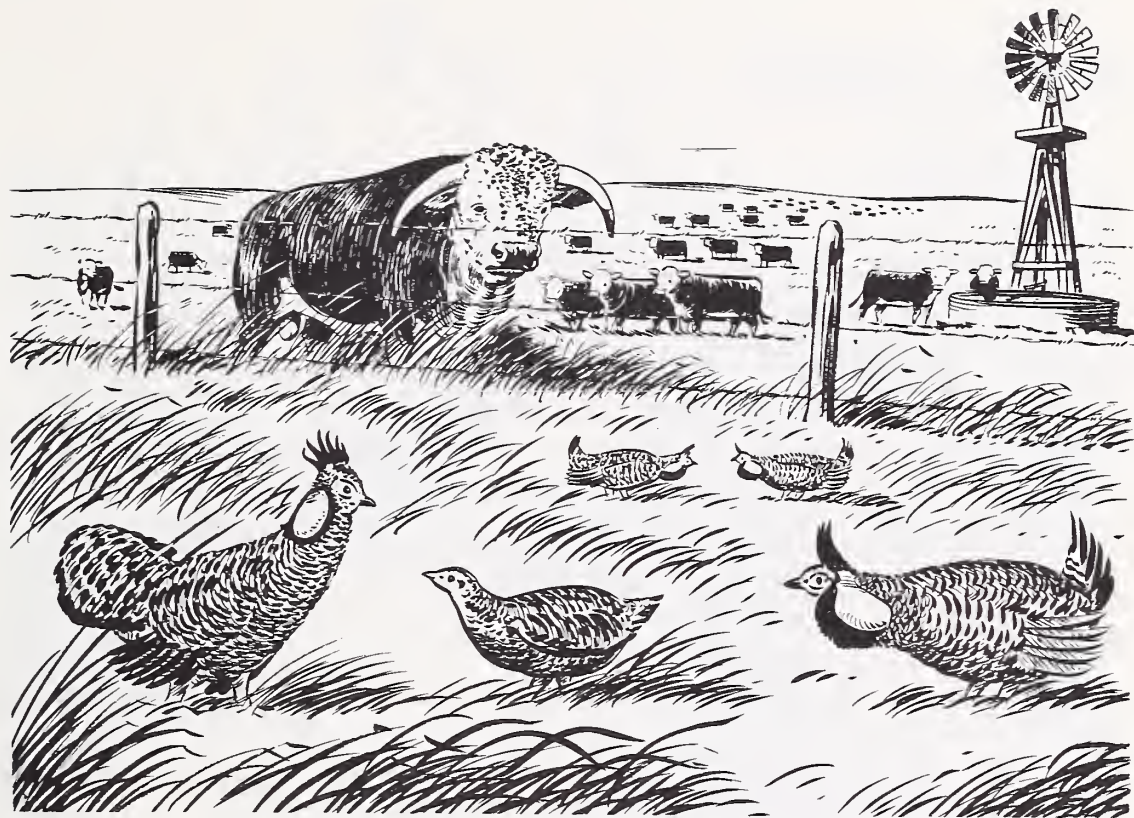
Treat the farmer's land just as you want your home treated. Respect his privacy and property.



## IMPROVED RANGELAND

The better cover of grass and browse on improved rangeland furnishes homes for antelope, prairie chickens, and other game. The added water supply from stock ponds, tanks, and wells benefits game as well as livestock.

Let the farmer know that you appreciate his conservation efforts toward better hunting and fishing.





## IMPROVED MARSHES

Marshes and other wet spots are managed by many farmers for furbearers and waterfowl. As part of conservation farming, new marshes are created and old ones restored.

While hunting on a farm or ranch, remember that you are a guest.



## CONTOUR FARMING

Plowing and planting on the contour holds water on slopes and keeps sediment out of streams and lakes. Better crops and better wildlife grow on contoured fields.

Be careful in fields and orchards not to trample or damage cultivated crops.

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## **SIGNS OF GOOD HUNTING AND FISHING**

Protected woodland

Contour farming

Farm ponds

Windbreaks

Hedges

Stripcropping

Stubble mulching

Irrigation reservoirs

Improved marshes

Managed grazing

Cover crops

Odd acres

Field borders

Grassed waterways

## **SIGNS OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

Ask permission to hunt and fish.

Show appreciation for hunting privileges.

Respect private property.

Leave fences and gates as you found them.

Do not damage crops.

Be careful with firearms.

Obey fish and game regulations.

Extinguish campfires and cigarettes.

Pick up your trash.

Be friendly, courteous, and considerate.

Remember that you are a guest.